

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6739

BILL NUMBER: HB 1547

DATE PREPARED: Dec 15, 2000

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Laser Pointers.

FISCAL ANALYST: Sherry Fontaine

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FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill amends the definition of "public safety officer" to include a town police officer, for purposes of making it a crime to direct a laser pointer at a town police officer without the officer's consent.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: This bill broadens the definition of public safety officer, for the purposes of making it a crime (a Class B misdemeanor) to direct a laser pointer at a town police officer without the officer's consent. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be

assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund.
(3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: